

To the Inhabitants of the Diocese of Landaff.

B R E T H R E N,

I NEED not acquaint you with the calamitous State of the Cathedral Church of LANDAFF, concerning which, many of You have spoken to me with Grief: I only write to intreat your Contribution towards preventing the Ruin of so antient and venerable a Fabrick. You know that some Parts of it fell down last Winter, and that there is Reason to apprehend, that before the End of the next, it will have quite lost the Appearance of a Church.

THIS melancholy Reflection has induced me to put you in Mind of its Antiquity, as a Motive to excite your pious Regard to our Design of repairing it; which, according to the lowest Computation, will necessarily require the Sum of 6366*l*.

ARCHBISHOP *Usher*, Sir *Henry Spelman*, and Bishop *Godwin*, say, that, according to Tradition, it was founded in the Year of our Lord 156, or 180, or in some intermediate Space between these two Periods, or in that Century. And, if the Authority of our own Records may be allow'd, it will appear, that this Church was a CATHEDRAL about the Year of Christ 429; for we read therein, that *Dubritius*, an holy Person, was Consecrated Bishop of LANDAFF, by *Germanus* and *Lupus*; and, according to the *French* Historians, it was in this Year, that these two Bishops came into *Britain*; being delegated by the Synod of *Gaul*, to confute some notable Disciples of *Pelagius* the Heretick, who was a Native of these Parts.

THIS happened above 160 Years before the landing of *Augustin* the Monk in *Kent*, who first subjected the *British* Churches to the Jurisdiction of *Rome*; there having been no Acknowledgment of any such dependance before, which may be proved from this, among other remarkable Facts, that *Teliavus*, a devout Man, who succeeded *Dubritius*, was Consecrated at *Jerusalem* by the Patriarch of that City.

MANY of You have Reason to know from the same Records, and a Monument now in the Church, that *Dubritius* and *Teliavus* were interr'd here, with several other holy Men, their Fellow-Labourers in the Gospel of CHRIST.

You need not be inform'd, that in the Year 1119, a Brief was issued by *Radulphus*, then Archbishop of *Canterbury*, for Rebuilding this Cathedral (under the Care of *Urban*, the 30th Bishop of this See from *Dubritius*.) It was directed to your Ancestors, and the rest of the Kingdom, and the People of *France*; and is now extant in our Archives. You may judge with what Zeal and Piety, the Motives of the Brief were attended to, from the Dispatch which was used in carrying on the Work; for (as it would seem) this large and (at that time) strong and comely Structure, was finished in less than two Years, from the Date of the Archbishop's Letter. Nor is there any occasion to acquaint You, that from the beginning of the late Civil Wars, (when the small Revenues, which then remained to the Bishop and Chapter, were sequestred) this Fabrick has been sensibly decaying. Or need You be informed of the Damage it suffered, by the Violence of the Storm, in the Year 1703; or what great Expence the Bishop and Chapter have been at for many Years, only to prevent it from falling.

SINCE most of these Things have been so well known to you, I should not have writ concerning them (as has been already said) but for your Recollection: That You may thereby be the more effectually moved to give your Assistance toward the Repair of this sacred Structure, which was erected on a Place, where G O D chose so early to hear the Prayers of his Congregation, for the Increase of the first Believers, and preserving them in the Purity of the Faith. I also mention them, to let You see, that, by engaging in this good Work, Ye will become Followers of those, who were here the First-fruits of the *Gentiles*, and first received the Spirit of Adoption, which instructed them in the Knowledge of all Duties; having this Confidence in the Lord touching You, that Ye will do in this Matter, as G O D has enabled You; and adding, for the furtherance of your Hope, that *whatsoever a Man soweth, that shall he also reap*.

Your Pastor in Christ,

JOHN LANDAFF.

WE desire the Clergy to give a good Example on so particular and pressing an Occasion: And that Persons out of the Diocese, whom God may dispose to promote this pious Undertaking, would send their Alms to Mess. *Hoar* and Comp. Bankers in *Fleetstreet, London.* Mr. *Richard Manklin*, Bookseller, at *York*, and Mess. *Daniel Goizin*, and Son, Merchants at *Bristol*.

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Concerning the
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